ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# 荒川アンダーザブリッジ

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE

中村光

Hikaru Nakamura

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FIRST, THE USUAL CAST...

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

A LOT OF PEOPLE LIVE AROUND ARAKAWA.

BUT APPEAR IN THE BACK-GROUND SOMETIMES.

BUT ALSO PEOPLE WHO AREN'T THE FOCUS OF THE STORY...

THAT'S WHY...

CLICK

ポッリー

まげないで

(Don't Bend)

THEY EACH HAVE THEIR OWN LIVES AND THOUGHTS.

IN MANGA WE CALL THEM THE "MOB".

TODAY'S LEAD

BUT THAT IS MERELY WITHIN THIS STORY.

...WILL TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT.

TODAY THOSE THREE...

# 荒川アンダーブリッジ

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# ☜ CHAPTER 108: LAST SAMURAI

EVERY TIME, I FIND MYSELF WONDERING ONE THING.

NINO-SAN...

NINO-SAN SOMETIMES COMES TO SLEEP IN MY PLACE (IN HER SLEEP).

HOW DO YOU FIX IT?

THAT BED HEAD...

IS SHORT HAIR EASIER?

CLCK

LONG HAIR SEEMS HARD TO MAINTAIN.

WELL... YEAH.

IT SEEMS KINDA... FEISTY.

WATER PRES-SURE.

OHH!

IN THAT CASE, MAYBE I'LL JUST LOSE IT ALL.

IF IT'S A PAIN, YOU COULD CUT IT SHORTER.

SLAM

MORNING FISHING SLASH HAIR STYLING.

CUT! YOUR!! HAIR!!!

NEVER!

YOU GOD DAMN STALKER!

OHH, HOSHI.

HAHH HAHH

MAYBE I SHOULD GET SOME TREAT-MENT DONE.

YOU KNOW...

SCREE

I SAW NINO SLEEP-WALKING INTO THE BEAST'S LAIR...

THAT WAS AWFULLY GOOD TIMING!

WHERE THE HELL'D YOU COME FROM!?

NEED MINERALS...

I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING CUTICLES WITH THE STRESS LATELY...

IT'S A KNIGHT'S JOB TO SILENTLY WATCH OVER HER.

SHEESH.

YEAH!

NINO, PLEASE! DON'T CUT IT!

THEN LET'S ALL GO TO THE HAIR SALON.

MAKES YOU EXTRA ANNOYING.

GRIN

YOU'RE GETTING LONG YOURSELF.

YOU COME TOO, REC.

CAN'T CUT A COSTUME'S HAIR.

HEEY

I DON'T WANNA!

THE HAIR-STYLIST HERE IS THAT GUY...!

DRAG

DRAG

DRAG

LET'S GO TOGETHER!

NO, THANKS.

I'VE GOT A FAMOUS SPECIALIST HAIR STYLIST ALREADY.

COME WITH US.

BUT... I HAVE A...

I'M NOT COMING.

GREETINGS.

T-shirt: "Samurai"

SEE, THERE HE IS.

NINO'S ONLY GETTING A TREAT-MENT!

YO, LAST SAMU-RAI!

DAILY LIFE IS NOT ALWAYS PEACEFUL.

I WAS TRYING SO HARD NOT TO TRIP THIS FLAG!

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# CHAPTER 109: HAIRCUT

I'D NOTICED HIM OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE...

I'M AFRAID I ONLY HAVE FOLDING CHAIRS...

WE ALL CAME TODAY!

NO...IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GIVE UP!

GULP

AND DESPERATELY AVOIDED ACTUALLY MEETING HIM.

HMM.

I HAVE LONG WONDERED ABOUT YOU.

YANK

IF I JUST ACT LIKE A NORMAL CUSTOMER...

STARE

ARE YOU BY CHANCE ADDING BLUE TO THE TIPS?

HAIR SO BLACK IT SCARCLEY SEEMS YOUR OWN.

I KNEW IT! HE EVEN REPHRASED IT TO FORCE A SAMURAI GAG!

NOPE.

PERHAPS... SAMURAI BLUE?

HEY, REC...

VERILY.

WHEW

LAST SAMURAI, I'M JUST HERE FOR A CUT.

EH?

LAST SAMURAI, THIS GUY'S SCARED YOU'LL GIVE HIM A TOP KNOT!

HA HA, I PROMISE I WILL NOT!

WHAT THE...!?

OF COURSE I AM!

SHHHH

YOU'RE BEING KINDA DISTANT...

THIS YOUR FIRST TIME MEETING LAST SAMURAI?

HA HA HA, YOU'RE HILARIOUS!

I LET MY GUARD DOWN, HE'LL GIVE ME ONE!

A HAIR STYLIST WITH A TOP KNOT!?

OH...

HAHH

A TOP KNOT WOULD NOT LOOK GOOD ON...

IS HE BEING *NICE* TO ME!?

GLANCE

.....WANT ONE?

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID...

SORRY.

IT WOULD LOOK FINE.

HEH HEH, HERE GOES.

HA HA, WHAT? AN IMPRESSION?

SAKAMOTO RYOMA!

ｺﾎﾝ!... COUGH

EH?

YEAH, SORRY.

SO YOU'RE NERVOUS, RECDONO?

WANT TO SEE AN IMPRESSION?

まげない

WHEWH

BUT I GUESS HE WOULDN'T FORCE ONE ON SOMEONE.

HE'S MORE NORMAL THAN I THOUGHT...

MY BACK'S SO STIFF!

TAP

TAP

WELL?

I HAVE MANY CUSTOMERS.

P-KO TRY A ONE LENGTH BOB

YAY

SO... I HAD BETTER GET TO WORK.

EH?

SORRY.

YOU'VE COME TOO, SISTER?

A RARE GLIMPSE OF RYOMA'S DAILY LIFE!

NUMBER 18.

I GET IT, BUT IT'S SO OLD!

PERHAPS THE GENERATION GAP IN PLAY?

IT'S A DIFFERENT AGE, MY FRIEND!

WHOOOSH

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU BEING...

ONLY SISTER REMAINS.

POP

GLOSS

GOOD.

FLUFF

CHANCE!

MM!?

SO, SISTER, WHAT CAN I...

WHAT JUST HAP-PENED!?

まけ"ない

HUNH!?

GHH

WE'D BETTER GO, REC!

THUD

HOLY...

HA HA HA, IT'S MORE DANGEROUS IF YOU MOVE, SISTER!

HIGGS CAN'T STOP MYSELF

SORRY, I DODGED AGAIN.

KATANA SHARPNESS IS WORLD FAMOUS.

I'D HAVE DODGED TOO!

IF I COULD SEE IT...

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# CHAPTER 110: BILLY AND JACQUELINE

UGH, THERE'S NOT A SINGLE NORMAL PERSON UNDER THIS BRIDGE!

AAAHHH!

HEH...

WHY YOU...

SMACK

HAH

RAAAAAH

THOSE TWO...

MM?

MAYBE HE JUST DOESN'T TALK MUCH...

HARD TO TELL.

SHE TEACH-ING HIM WORDS?

I MEAN, HE IS A PARROT.. OFFICIAL-LY..

BILLY AND JACQUELINE, I THINK...

"I LOVE YOU."

"I LOVE YOU"!

C'MON, BILLY! "I LOVE YOU!"

MAYBE THAT'S CUTER.

PUT A LID ON IT.

YO...

I'VE SEEN THEM AROUND.

BORROWING THE WORDS OF OTHERS.

I'VE MOVED BEYOND...

COMES FROM 'ROCKA-BILLY.'

Mr PFFT

MY NAME'S BILLY...

I KNOW ONLY TOO WELL THIS IS ADULTERY!

BUT...

QUIT CRYIN'. IT DON'T SUIT YOU.

LOOK STARE

I'M SCARED.. IF THIS EVER CAME OUT...

A-ADULTERY? UNEXPECTEDLY DEEP FOR UNDER THE BRIDGE!

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

BUT...BUT I JUST GET SO ANXIOUS...

AND MY 10,000 HUSBANDS... WHAT IF THEY FOUND OUT?

THE 30,000 CHILDREN IN MY HIVE...

I DON'T CARE IF YOU JUST PARROT IT, I WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT!

SHAKE

SHAKE

YOU NEVER TELL ME HOW YOU FEEL!

OH.

IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS...

THEN...

IF I PARROTED YOU, IT'D BE A LIE.

SAY, "I LOVE YOU!"

"I LOVE YOU"? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

BUT THAT'S A BIT TOO COLD!

HMPH

EH...

I DON'T BELIEVE IN LYIN'.

IT DON'T CONVEY 1/100 OF MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.

THAT PHRASE IS WORN OUT.

B...

PUT THEIR LOVE TOGETHER, THEY CAN'T EQUAL MINE.

THOSE 10,000 HUS-BANDS...

I KNEW I DEFINITELY NEVER WANTED TO SPEAK TO THEM.

YEAH

TIS LOVE.

AHH...

SHUT UP.

BILLYYYYY!

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荒川ダンジョン

SHHAAAA

GASP

SPLSH

I SUPPOSE THAT'S TODAY'S CATCH...

BLUB

BLUB

MM?

PSSHHSH

...

RRRRRRRROAR

WHAT...

HAHH...

FOOOOM

FOOOOOOM

WA...

WAIT!!

WHEW

OH...

TWEET

TWEET

A DREAM...

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF DREAM WAS THAT, NINO-SAN?

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BR.DGE

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 111: TRADE

IF THIS KEEPS UP, I'LL...

EVERY DAMN DAY! I CAN'T GET A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP!

GUSH

...FALL APART...

OH?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU CRY!

I DON'T MIND, KEEP COMING!

EHHH!?

TEARS!?

DREAM.?

A NIGHTMARE OR...?

BECAUSE OF THAT DREAM?

WHY AM I CRYING?

RUB RUB

BUT I DIDN'T WANT IT TO STOP.

IT WAS SCARY...

BUT IT WAS... VERY TIRING.

I FORGET WHAT HAP-PENED...

IT TURNED OUT OK...

BUT I COULDN'T HELP AT ALL.

スン // SNIFF

WE ALMOST HAD TO LEAVE HERE...

NINO-SAN MAY STILL BE UNEASY.

OH, WELL. I FORGOT IT ALREADY.

YAWN

NINO-SAN...

MAYBE I SHOULD INVITE HER TO LIVE HERE WITH ME?

THE LEAST I CAN DO IS HELP HER FEEL SAFE NOW.

WHAT IS IT, REC?

...

IT'S PRETTY MUCH ALL I CAN DO.

THAT'S SOME-THING I *CAN* DO.

I REGRET EVER DOING IT!

OH? IT REMINDS ME OF HOSHI.

HE DOES THAT A LOT

ガバ

FUME FUME

I WOULD NEVER BE LIKE HOSHI...!

YOU LOOK AWFUL HAPPY.

EH? NO, I DON'T!

AUGH! STOP IT!

WHAT IF WE KISSED AND THEN THE FABLED ADULT SITUATION...

I'M NOT DOING THIS!

WHAT IF WE WORE MATCHING HANTEN TO THE PUBLIC BATHS?

WHAT IF OUR TOOTHBRUSHES ON THE WINDOWSILL LEANED TOGETHER FOR A KISS?

MM?

JUST A SUGGESTION, BUT...

N-NINO-SAN, UM...

GOTTA BE NATURAL.

I DON'T WANT HER TO THINK I'M SUGGESTING ANY OF THAT.

WHY NOT JUST LIVE IN MY HOUSE?

SINCE YOU COME UP HERE EVERY NIGHT ANYWAY...

CAN I?

I'M SORRY, THAT WASN'T AP-PROPRIATE.

I COULD...

IF YOU DON'T MIND...

...HUNH?

THANK YOU.

THIS IS NOTH-ING!

O-OF COURSE I DON'T MIND!

...MOVE TODAY.

NOW THE TWO OF US...

SURE...

WE'RE A COUPLE, AFTER ALL!

WILL BE CLOSER.

SLAM

UH, YEAH.

YOU FORGOT THIS.

CLICK

OH, HEY...

APPARENTLY WE JUST TRADED.

THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH.

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# CHAPTER 112: NINO'S HOUSE

I GUESS NINO-SAN JUST...

GHUMP

GHUMP

TO SLEEP ON SOME-TIMES.

SEES ME AS A HANDY GUY...

STILL AN AMAZING BED!

HMM... BEEN A WHILE.

SO MAYBE THIS IS PROGRESS?

I DID OFFER TO BUY HER A HOUSE ONCE...

A TRADE IS DOABLE..

SHE REJECTED IT, THEN.

SIGHHH

MMMMMM

MMMMMM

I LOVE YOU

I'M SIMPLY MAD ABOUT ONE LENGTH BOBS BUT EVEN IF YOU SHAVED YOUR HEAD I'D STILL LOVE YOU

STRUMM

YOU, I LOVE YOU...

STRUMM

THANK YOU.

HAHH HAH HAHH

JJAANG

YOU LOVE I DO

STRUMM

LOVE REALLY

STRUMM

SHUT UP.

MAKE YOU VERY HAPPY

AND I WILL

RECRUIT!?

ARE YOU DOING SHIT LIKE THIS EVERY DAY, HOSHI!?

WHAM

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

AH, MM?

GOT TO LET IT OUT!

MY HEART IS OVER-FLOWING WITH LOVE!

OF COURSE I AM!

OOH, TOMA-TOES.

HUNH?

NINO-SAN'S UP IN MY ROOM.

WE TRADED HOUSES.

P-KO!

NINO...?

UH, NO, THESE AREN'T...

THEY'RE STILL GREEN.

THESE FOR NINO-SAN?

WHY ARE YOU HERE ALONE!?

...AH...

THESE AREN'T...

WAAAH!

OH, YEAH, YEAH.

...LOOKS LIKE HIM.

YEAH...NOT SURE HOW LONG, BUT FOR THE MOMENT...

BUT THAT MEANS THIS IS YOUR HOUSE NOW?

I'M COMING IN.

THEN, REC...

LOOK, BUDDY... I DON'T KNOW ABOUT NO TRADE....

...ABOUT HER CRUSH ON THE MAYOR?

I WONDER IF P-KO HAS TOLD NINO-SAN...

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
WHAT...?
BOING
HUNH?
HE'D NEVER BEEN INSIDE NINO-SAN'S HOUSE...?
WAAH
IT SMELLS TOO GOOD!
HEY, NINOOO!
DO I DO THAT?
WHEN THEY COME TO SEE NINO-SAN...
FUNNY...
THAT VOICE... EVEN THE MAYOR...?
OH...
I'M COMING IN!
THEY LET THEIR GUARDS DOWN.

...TOO MANY COOKIES SO I SHOULD PASS THEM AROUND...

SCHNK

LIKE, SISTER SAYS HE BAKED...

CLCK CLCK

YEAH, YEAH...

THMP THMP

IT SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF USES.

OH, YOUR SHELL..

MAYBE TOO UN-GUARDED.

HA HA, YOU STILL HAVEN'T DONE THE ZIPPER.

GOTCHA!

THAT'S ALL!

YEAH, YOKAI MAGIC MAKES IT LOOK LIKE I TOOK MY SHELL OFF.

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# ☜CHAPTER 113: VENUSIAN

ONE COMMOTION AFTER ANOTHER.

SIGHHH

NINO-SAN'S PROBABLY IN BED ALREADY.

ALREADY EVENING...

LATELY SHE COOKS FISH IN MY KITCHEN...

SHE COMES TO DRINK TEA AT 3...

WHEN I WAKE UP, NINO-SAN'S ON THE COUCH...

I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN HER AFTER THAT...

SO BASICALLY...

YEAH. NORMALLY...

NOT THE PEOPLE IN THEM?

MEOW

CATS LIKE HOUSES...

I CAN'T TAKE THIS.

WARMTH! THAT'S THE MAIN THING, GOTTA MAKE IT WARM!

FLP

FLP

BEFORE SHE PERMANENTLY SETTLES THERE...

I'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS HOUSE...

RATTLE

...WHY DOES SHE SLEEP IN THE DRAWER!?

I MEAN, WHEN SHE'S GOT THIS AWESOME BED...

...EVEN MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THAT ONE!

THE LEFT DRAWER IS USED LIKE A DRAWER.

UH, HUNH...

THIS MUST BE THE DRESS I GAVE HER FOR OUR...

GOOD FABRIC!

FOR A KID...?

BUT VERY WELL MADE.

IT'S OLD...

GUESS NOT.

NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE.

GRNK

SHOOP

...DATE

NINO-SAN!?

WH...?

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, I SWEAR!

THUD

I... I DIDN'T MEAN TO!

THUD

HONKKK

FLOP

I WASN'T TRYING TO PRY INTO YOUR PAST...!

.....EH...?

WHAT NOW, NINO-SAN?

IT'S STILL COLD IN HERE.

ACK!

THUNK

SWISH

HEH HEH

FLAP

FLAP

AND SO NIGHT...

...FELL ON THE RIVER, JUST AS IT ALWAYS DOES.

AIIIIEEE

THAT FORM...

FOOM

NO MISTAKING IT.

THE VENUSIAN HIDEOUT!

I'VE FOUND IT AT LAST...

WAS LITERALLY THE WORST THING EVER.

ZZZZZ

SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF

SLEEPING IN THE BED'S DRAWER...

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ONE WEEK EARLIER...

荒川ダーナーサイド

A SINISTER SHADOW STARES DOWN AT THE NIGHTTIME RIVER...

PROVI-SIONS! WE'RE LOW ON SUPPLIES, RESTOCK ASAP!

COMPLE-TION NOW OVER 80%!

SOME-WHERE IN THE ARAKAWA DIS-TRICT...

WE HAVE TO PROTECT...

THIS BEAUTIFUL EARTH...

SOME-TIMES YOU GOTTA RISK YOUR LIFE TO GET IT DONE!

SQUEAK

INDEED.

FOOL!!!

I CAN'T DO IT ANY MORE!

WE'VE COME TOO FAR TO GIVE UP NOW!

YES SIR!

AND OUR DEAD-LINE!

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

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荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 114: THE MANGA ARTIST, THE EDITOR, THE MANUSCRIPT AND...

ALL 36 PAGES ACCOUNTED FOR!

TKK トン!

TKK トン!

SENSEI, GOOD JOB.

3

HA HA HA EVERY ONE OF MY CREW ARE POWERFUL INDEED!

HA HA HA

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GRATEFUL I AM YOU ALWAYS MAKE YOUR DEADLINES.

NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

HA HA HA

YES, SIR!

THEY FOUGHT WELL TODAY!

OH, RIGHT! CAN'T SKIP THAT!

I'LL JUST CHECK THE MANU-SCRIPT OVER.

REST HARD, AND BE READY FOR THE NEXT BATTLE!

GOOD, GOOD...

AMP ピーン

YOU REALLY KEEP OUR MAGAZINE AFLOAT!

HA HA HA!!

HA HA!!

...THE ANIME'S POPU-LAR...

THE MANGA'S SELLING WELL...

THIS EXPRES-SION! PER-FECTION!

GOTTA HURRY!

AND YOUR MANU-SCRIPTS ARE ALWAYS IMMACU-LATE.

HA HA HA, GLAD TO HEAR IT!

AS A READER MYSELF, I GENUINELY LOOK FORWAD TO THIS!

SNIFF

HEH HEH, SHE FELL DOWN!

SPLAT

EEK

AFTER THAT...

I MIGHT NOT MAKE IT...

WHAT CAN I...

WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD OUR SHIP!

ARE YOU OK?

FLIP

THE RIVAL BISHOJO HOLDS OUT HER HAND...

WE'VE ALREADY GOT SO MANY GIRLS!

OH, I JUST...

GHH

WHO'S THIS BEARD DUDE?

THE NAME HAD A BI-SHOJO.

AND YOUR ART STYLE'S CHANGING...

LOOK OUT!

THIS ISN'T MOE...

DON'T WORRY! THERE'S A FANTASTIC SPLASH PAGE NEXT!

BA-BUMP

HE STARTS SAYING "SPACE" WITH "SKY" AS THE READING...

BUT THE MOMENT HE SHOWS UP...

CAN YOU SEE? THAT'S VENUS

SPACE

RUMBLE

IT'LL BE OK!

VENUS

DON'T WORRY!

DID YOU CHANGE THE NAME AGAIN?

THIS ISN'T GOOD.

IT'S BETTER! I MADE IT WAY BETTER!

NUTS!

EEEEEEK

A SPLASH PAGE...?

I GOT THE PANTY SHOT IN!

YEAH, BUT...

DID THE HEROINE JUST DIE!?

IT ISN'T! REDRAW ALL OF THIS!

SHAKE SHAKE

BUT... THIS IS MUCH MORE INTER-ESTING...

NUTS... YOUR WILL IS NOW MINE!

SHHHAA

THIS DULL, MELO-DRAMAT-IC...

BUT IT JUST DOESN'T SELL!

SHAKE

I KNOW YOU WANT TO DRAW SCI-FI...

IS THIS OLD MAN THE MAIN CHARACTER NOW!?

IN SPACE!

SHAKE

ART STYLE TOTALLY DIFFERENT..

I WON'T STAND FOR IT!

IT'S CRAP!

RRRIIP

SO WHAT!?

THIS IS AN EDITOR'S JOB!

WHY, YOU...

THAT MANUSCRIPT MEANT MORE THAN LIFE!

NOT EVER!

I CAN'T LET THAT SHIT TOUCH MY READER'S EYES!

DAMN YOUUUUUU!

I'LL SINK YOU TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MOON'S SEA!!!

GRAAAAAHHH

YOU'RE ROTTEN TO THE CORE...!

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

WHEW...

THIS MAN PUTS ALL HIS EMOTIONS ON THE PAGE.

I'LL HAVE THE CORRECTIONS BY FRIDAY!

YES, MUCH.

FEELING BETTER?

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# CHAPTER 115: ILLUSION

ANOTHER FAILURE...

TRUDGE

とぼ

TRUDGE

とぼ

SIGHH...

WHY?

OR WHY NOT?

IT JUST DOESN'T SELL. THIS DULL...

WHY DON'T THEY UNDER-STAND HOW CUTE IT IS!?

WHEN I FORCED THEM TO ADD THE FAMILIAR... "SPACE BUNNY" WE GOT BURIED IN COMPLAINTS.

WHEN I CHANGED MY ART, EVERY-ONE LOVED IT!

WHEN I WROTE SOMETHING TO THE MARKET, IT SELLS!

SPLSH

SPLSH

THUNK

SPLSH

SPLSH

HOW ADORABLE HAVING A BLACK HOLE INSIDE HIS BODY...

AAHHHH! BLACK HOLE MOEEE-EEE!

OW!

MAKE SURE THERE ISN'T A KAPPA IN THE WATER FIRST!

SPLASH

HEY! IF YOU'RE GONNA SKIP STONES...

WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING HERE!?

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

WHY WOULDN'T A KAPPA BE IN THE RIVER?

?!

MY NEW SONG HAS YOU SHOUTING "MOEEEE" OVER IT.

SLUMP

MOEEEE

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU!?

?!

SERIOUSLY, BRO. DON'T YELL WHEN PEOPLE ARE RECORDING DEMOS.

?!

I'M RE-CORDING A SONG...

...FOR THE VENUSIAN I LOVE.

YES, I DID.

DID YOU JUST SAY VENU-SIAN!?

VENU-SIAN?

NO WAY!

YEAH.

Y-YOU MEAN...

A REAL ALIEN!?

OH...

THAT'S ...

EVERY TIME I FINISH A MANU-SCRIPT...

SIGHH

JUST A DELUSION.

MY BRAIN REALLY IS MESSED UP

SIGHH

MEETING A REAL VENUSIAN COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THIS EASY.

YOU SHOULD SEE HIS NIGHT DREAMS.

YEAH.

SOUNDS ROUGH.

I'VE GOTTA STOP DAY DREAM-ING...

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Chapter 115

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Hikaru Nakamura

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# ☜ CHAPTER 116: AND ABOVE THE BRIDGE...

I AM A REALIST.

I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW.

I MUST APOLO-GIZE, DELU-SION.

I MAY CAST ILLUSIONS, BUT I'M NOT ONE, MYSELF!

EXCEPT...

FONT

MAKES SENSE.

OTHERWISE, I'D NEVER PROTECT THE EARTH OR MY DEADLINES.

YOU CAN'T JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT.

ON EARTH.

NOBODY ON EARTH GETS TO LIVE AS FREELY AS YOU DO.

NO, YOU ARE.

I DUNNO WHO TOLD YOU THAT...

HEY...

NOT LIKE YOU DELU-SIONS DO.

MM?

THERE'S A LOT OF THEM, BUT THEY AIN'T GOD, AND THEY AIN'T SHIT.

PEOPLE WHO TELL YOU NO, PEOPLE WHO SAY YOU'RE WRONG...

SO DON'T PAY ME NO NEVER MIND EITHER.

I'M JUST ONE GUY, MYSELF...

ALL YOU CAN REALLY DO...

...IS LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR HEART TELLS YOU.

(Tokyo TV Saturdays at 6AM)

(Peanuts [rep'])

RATTLE

KA-CHA-DOO

HEH...

I KNEW IT.

SWISH

NO...

MANGA.

NO, SCI-FI MANGA.

MY DREAM WAS ALWAYS...

AS CAPTAIN OF THE EARTH DEFENSE FORCE, I CANNOT LET THAT STAND!

VENU-SIANS, YOU SAY!?

BRRRRRING

I WILL PROTECT THIS BLUE STAR...

WAIT RIGHT THERE, VENU-SIAN!

FIRST, PROTECT YOUR DEADLINE.

YES, IT'S ALL GOOD, VERY MOE.

YES, I'M HEADING BACK NOW.

EH? NOW? OH, SUGENIX-SAN? I'M OUT SHOPPING, YES.

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

A MAN (HE CLAIMS) FROM THE EARTH DEFENSE FORCE APPEARED...

ON THE BRIDGE AT NIGHT...

蒼川アダーサブリッジ

THAT WAS THE WORST NIGHT'S SLEEP EVER...

YAWWN

SHH

THE NEXT MORNING...

TWEET TWEET

I GUESS...

I DUNNO HOW NINO-SAN SLEEPS THERE...

THOSE LITTLE BIRDS ON THE BRIDGE...

...THE MORNING QUIET.

I DO KINDA LIKE...

AT LEAST I'M UP EARLY.

CAW CAW

AND A PERSON !??

ARAKAWA-UNDER THE BRIDGE

荒川アンダーブリッジ

# CHAPTER 117: AS THE WILL COMMANDS

OH? YOU FOUND HIM HUNG OUT TO DRY ON THE GUARDRAIL?

MM...?

BLINK

MM.

HE'D BEEN THERE ALL NIGHT.

HE WAS VERY PALE...

WHAAAT!?

SOME ECCENTRIC CHILDREN FORCED ME ONTO THE GUARD-RAIL...

WHERE AM I...?

YOU'RE AWAKE?

I RE-MEMBER, LAST NIGHT...

I UNDER-STAND!

VIOLENT CHILD BRIGADE

THE SAME ONES THAT STOLE MY PANTS AND HUNG THEM ON THE BRIDGE!?

COUGH COUGH

THAT EX-PLAINS...

THEY MUST HAVE FORCED HIM TO PUT THAT ON.

...WHY HE'S DESSED SO ODDLY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...?

THEY FORCED YOU UP THERE, DIDN'T THEY?

THOSE KIDS ARE AWFUL!

THE SUN MIGHT HAVE BURNT ME TO A CRISP.

IF I HADN'T BEEN WEARING MY SPECIAL SUIT...

I CLIMBED UP THERE OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

YO...

SCREEE

.....UH?

THEN DIS-COVERED I COULDN'T GET DOWN.

A VISITOR?

SCREEE

WHAT?

YOU... I KNOW YOU!

TOP WITH THE HORROR ENTRANCE

BETTER STAY AWAY FOR NOW.

I REALIZED THE TRUTH SOON ENOUGH.

HA HA HA! DE-LUSIONS! I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D THINK THAT!

OHHH, THE SKIPPING STONES DUDE.

YOU'VE MET THEM BEFORE?

HUNH?

THOSE...

I WAS FOOLED A MINUTE OR TWO

HA HA HA

YEAH, GET A GOOD LOOK, IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'RE COSTUMES.

...ARE NOT DELUSIONS.

THE DICK WHO INSISTED WE WERE DELUSIONS!

THEY ARE ALIENS!

FAR WORSE!

HEH...

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE LET THE CROWS EAT HIM.

LOOKS LIKE I'M RIGHT.

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 118: FEELING

I GET THE SAME SCENT OFF THIS GUY...

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE!?

YOU'RE ONE OF THEM?

WELL, THERE ARE SCHOL-ARS WHO SAY KAPPA WERE ORIGINALLY ALIENS...

NOTHING THEY SAY CONNECTS BUT THEIR FEELINGS SURE ARE...

OH? A STAR...?

AND MORE OF A WANDERING POET, REALLY.

LOOK, MAAN, I'M A STAR, NOT AN ALIEN.

THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW UNDER THE BRIDGIAN?

AM I WIT-NESS-ING...

HE FITS IN HERE...

WAY MORE THAN I EVER HAVE.

JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH THE CRAZY DOWN HERE INCREASE!

I CAN'T...

YOU FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE...

BUT IF I JUST TELL HIM TO GO HOME, HE'S TOO CRAZY TO LISTEN!

HEH... THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I KNOW YOU'RE ALL ALIENS! BEHAVE...

AND CRAZY WITH CRAZY!

I NEVER KNOW!

EH? REALLY!?

WHAT!?

THOUGHT SO, HE'LL JUMP ON ANYTHING SCI-FI...

WHY ARE THE OTHER TWO BITING?

!!?

I'M THE ALIEN!

I'M FROM VENUS!

ARE YOU THE SAME TYPE OF ALIEN AS THAT GIRL I SAW LAST NIGHT?

THAT EXPLAINS IT...

NOW I JUST HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE VIOLENT...

AND CHASE HIM OFF!

THEN YOUR TRUE FORM...!

NINO-SAN, SLEEP-WALKING?

..

I SAW A GIRL DOING INSANE ATHLETICS WITH HER EYES STILL CLOSED!

HANG IN THERE!

UGH, YOU GOT ME!

RIGHT?

ANTENNA CONTROLLING THE HOST

IS A SNOT BUBBLE!

HERE

BUT HER POWER IS UNLIKE MINE...

AS YOU SAY, THAT GIRL IS ONE OF US...

SHE COULD WIPE OUT THE EARTH IN THREE DAYS!

IF SHE GOES ALL OUT...

WHAAAT!?

WE LIKE THIS PLANET... FOR NOW.

BUT DON'T WORRY.

SUCH A TERRIFYING ALIEN...!?

MOST OF YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER...

IF YOU WANT TO PROTECT THE EARTH...

BUT THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT SET HER OFF...

THAT'S WORSE THAN A NUKE!

GOT HIM.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE...

...WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

IS RUNNING AWAY THE ONLY ANSWER?

HE BELIEVES EVERYTHING I SAID.

TCH...WHO SAID YOU WERE ALONE...?

I STAND NO CHANCE!

I WANT TO FIGHT!

NOW GO!

DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOUR-SELF

BUT ALONE...

THUD

KNOWING SUCH A THREAT EXISTS...

BUT ALL I CAN DO IS LEAVE IT BE?

IF YOU GIVE UP, THE EARTH IS DOOMED!

WE'RE ALL WITH YOU, CAPTAIN.

ON YOUR FEET...

Y-YOU ALL...

THE CRAZIES' WAVE-LENGTHS HAD MERGED.

SINCE WHEN ARE YOU FRIENDS!?

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

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Chapter 118

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 119: VENUSIAN QUEEN

WAIT, THAT'S AN AWFUL BIG WEAPON!

I'M IN!

KA-CHUNK

COME ON, EVERY-ONE! LET'S PROTECT THIS BLUE PLANET!

DON'T STRATE-GIZE!

STOP!

OK

EVERY-THING HAS A WEAK-NESS.

WE JUST ALL HAVE TO HIT IT!

THIS IS BAD!

HEY...

EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE...

WE WILL DEFEAT THE VENUSIAN QUEEN!

WH- WHAT'S GOING ON?

HE'S NOT GOING HOME...

AND EVERYONE ELSE HAS JOINED HIM!?

UM...

EEEK

OH?

I GOTTA ADMIT I WAS LYING!

NINO-SAN MIGHT ACTUALLY BE IN DANGER!

SOMEONE NEW HERE?

CREAK

WHAT'S GOING ON?

HEY, NEIGHBOR!

WHOOSH

OUT-SIDE!?

THE VENUSIAN QUEEN!!!

MM?

SWISH

I KNOW YOUR TRUE FORM...!

HEY... HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MINDS?

VENUS!?

NINO, TELL THIS GUY ABOUT VENUS!

YOU'RE CUTE TODAY!

WE CAN'T LET YOU...

FIDGET FIDGET

WH-WHAT? WEAPONS ALREADY!?

THE VENUSIAN QUEEN HAS AP-PEARED!

THUMP

HERE!

MMPH-
YOU

WIGGLE

URP

HW

MMPH

MMMMPH

SQUIGGLE

STUFF

YOUR BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WON'T...

GHH

N-
NINO-
SA...

I...

...LET YOU EVIL VENUSIANS HAVE THE EARTH!

I WON'T...

LEAVING ALREADY?

SHE MADE HIM CRY.

SLAM

THIS ISN'T OVER!

FOR THE MOMENT, THE DANGERS OF INCREASED RIVER RESIDENCE WAS AVERTED.

I THINK YOU WELCOMED HIM TOO HARD.

WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO THE MAIN DISH.

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

I'M SLEEPY, REC-SAN.

SCHHAAAA

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

YOU LIVE HERE! WHAT ELSE COULD BE SCARY?

I'M SCARED!

WHY ARE WE HAVING CLASS THIS LATE?

NINO-SAN! I'M GLAD YOU CAME.

HEY.

WITH LOTS OF PICKLED CUCUM-BERS!

HEY, REC. I BROUGHT A PICNIC BASKET!

YES, TODAY...

TODAY'S A SPECIAL SCIENCE CLASS?

P-KO! MAYOR!

# #荒川アンダーブリッジ

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE

YOU'VE GOT LUGGAGE LIKE YOU'RE MOVING.

(Big Burst)

BUT, REC...

Vixen

YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRONG ABOUT ME!

IT'S A RELIEF, I AGREE.

NO, MAYOR, HE'S CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OUTBREAK OF WWIII.

SHE MUST LIKE SCI-FI AND SPACE STUFF.

WELCOME

NINO-SAN WAS VERY HAPPY.

NOT YET, NINO-SAN! THAT'S FOR LATER.

YOU DO HAVE A LOT.

I GOTTA DO WHAT I CAN TO MAKE HER HAPPY.

WHICH MEANS ...

WHEN THAT SCI-FI CRAZY CAME...

YEAH...

WOW... EVEN TO THE NAKED EYE, IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

YAY YAY

# CHAPTER 120: ASTRONOMY

OH! MAYBE.

HEH HEH...

HEY, LOOK, LOOK THERE! DON'T THOSE STARS LOOK LIKE YOU?

BA-BUMP BA-BUMP BA-BUMP

A TINY... CUTE...

AH!

HMM... YEAH...

WHAT DO YOU SEE THERE?

I FOUND THAT A LONG TIME AGO.

BUT SAYING THAT MIGHT SCARE HIM.

BUT THOSE LITTLE STARS NEXT TO IT...

IT LOOKS LIKE A SUMO RING!

SUMO RING!

YOU LOVE THE WRONG MAN.

WAAAAAHH

FRANCE

AND ALL THE OTHERS LOOK LIKE SHIRIKO-DAMA!

HMM...

LOOKING AT THE STARS MIGHT HELP...

VERY CALMING.

HMM, YOU CAN SET ONE OF THOSE UP?

ONCE I GET THIS SET UP...

IT MUST WEAR HIM OUT.

SISTER IS ALWAYS ON EDGE FOR NO REASON...

YEAH. SISTER, WANT A LOOK?

YOU'RE HOLDING IT WRONG, LOOKING AT IT WRONG, EVERYTHING IS WRONG!

HUMAN VITAL POINTS...

JESUS.

I DON'T FIND IT CALMING!

OH?

ENOUGH! I WANT TO SHOW NINO-SAN!

OHH?

HEH HEH...I ALREADY AM.

REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES.

...

LOVE YOU...

YOU AREN'T JOINING IN ON THE AS-TRONOMY?

UHH... NINO-SAN...

ポロロン..

STRUMMM

THINK

I SEE A HAPPY LUCKY STAR...

OH, WAS THAT AS-TRONOMY, TOO?

GOTTA USE A TELESCOPE TO SEE THE STARS!

ﾊｯｸｼｮﾝ! HISSS

WHAT THE HELL, DUDE?

I'M SAVING YOUR BORING CLASS!

YOU OUGHTA BE GRATEFUL!

WHAT?

POP

YES, NINO-SAN. YOU'VE GOT TO USE THIS TELE-SCOPE...

GRR...!

ｶｧｰ!! ｶｧｰ!!

C'MON KIDS ASK ME ANYTHING

I'LL ANSWER ANY QUES-TIONS YOU HAVE!

A BIG GUEST STAR LIKE ME?

HA, SO BORING!

WHY...

...DO STARS SHINE!?

Q

HOSHI WOULD GO NUTS. THAT'S WHY I KEPT IT SECRET!

I KNEW IF I MENTIONED ASTRONOMY...

OK...

..THEY'RE JUST THAT COOL.

A

BE-CAUSE...

WHAT MAKES SHOOTING STARS FALL?

MM?

WELL...

GOD I HATE HIM

THEN, THEN...

WHY ARE STARS DIFFERENT COLORS!?

Q

...JUST FASHION.

A

THAT'S

AND STOP CARING WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM.

THEY GET TIRED...

THEY LISTEN TO PEOPLE'S WISHES...

ONCE THEY START FALLING, THEY CAN'T STOP.

HOSHI INSISTED HE WAS AS BRIGHT AS A BURNING METEOR.

SILENCE

?!

AH, WAIT, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT MYSELF!

FINALLY, THEY BECOME LITTLE PEBBLES...

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Hikaru Nakamura

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# ☜ CHAPTER 121: PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

Book: Space Encyclopedia

...WITH INTELLIGENT LIFE!

A STAR...

YOU PREPARED FOR THIS, TOO.

DON'T WORRY.

ESPECIALLY ONE WHERE THE AI HAS GONE BERSERK!

NOT MUCH GOOD HAS HAPPENED LATELY...

I JUST HAVE TO GO WITH HER FLOW.

LET'S TRY TO FIND ONE!

WELL... WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY LIKE THAT YET.

HOW ABOUT WE START WITH VENUS?

I WANT TO SHOW HER MY GOOD SIDE.

OHH!

YEP...

HAHH!?

HAHH!?

!?

OH, THE BRIDGE...

?

LET'S SEE, VENUS, VENUS...

I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING.

LOW MAGNI-FICATION.

YOU OK?

CAN'T HURT, I GUESS.

THIS IS PRETTY HARD...

REC, LET ME SEE.

EVEN WITH MY PREP, THIS IS HARD...

OHH...

GO AHEAD.

SHE'LL ENJOY JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH IT.

HMM... A 115MM LENS TUBE.

PSSHT

IDEAL CONDI-TIONS.

MINIMAL DISTORTION IN THE ATMO-SPHERE.

FWP

GHHH

LET'S START AT 30X.

SHE WAS A MASTER.

NINO-SAN, CAN YOU SAY IT SO I CAN UNDER-STAND?

WHERE'S HERCULES?

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE THE GREAT GLOBULAR CLUSTER IN M13.

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 122: THE FATE OF THE STARS

NINO-SAN, YOU'VE... USED A TELESCOPE BEFORE?

CHNK
CHNK

AH, CRAP, SHE'S IGNORING ME!

SILENCE

EITHER WAY...

UMMM... NINO-SAN?

PACE

PACE

BUT SHE MAY BE AN AS-TRONOMY NERD?

I MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR HERE...

I FIGURED SHE WAS A SCI-FI NERD...

OHH...

I'M REALLY REALLY BORED!

IT'S GETTING CLOUDY.

OH, IT IS.

WE CAN'T SEE THE STARS.

I'M A BIT RE-LIEVED...

LET'S GO JOIN THE OTHERS.

THERE'S OTHER STUFF WE CAN DO!

BUT WE DON'T KNOW THE SKIES WILL CLEAR.

YOU CAN GO IF YOU WANT.

NO, NO...

...

I'LL WAIT TILL THE STARS COME OUT AGAIN.

WE'LL DO THIS AGAIN SOME-TIME.

THE STARS AREN'T GOING ANY-WHERE!

STARS DIE.

WHILE THE SKY IS CLOUDY...

...THEY MIGHT VANISH FOREVER.

LATER, I'LL...

ABSENT

...

SILENCE

BEEEE

RATTLE

BEEEE

RATTLE

BEEEE

UNNN

REC!

BANG

NINO-SAN!

POP

POP

POP

POP

I BROUGHT IT IN CASE IT GOT CLOUDY.

REC!

DID YOU SEE?

I JUST SHOT THAT UP!

SO BEAUTIFUL!

SO DON'T WORRY.

I'LL SHOOT OFF A LOT OF FIREWORKS.

EVEN IF THERE ARE NO STARS LEFT...

EVER LET THE SKY BE EMPTY.

I WON'T...

HOSHI.

N-NINO, DID HE SAY ANYTHING WEIRD?

WHAT AN ASS-HOLE, RIGHT?

REC!

I'LL SEND UP ANOTHER ONE!

YEAH, IF?

IF...

TCH...

I'LL BE OK AS LONG AS I HAVE REC.

EVEN IF THE STARS DIE...

PLENTY OF REPLACE-MENTS.

HE HAS...

HOSHI DID NOT SLEEP FOR THREE DAYS AFTER THAT.

!?!!

GCHAAAAA

THAT'S WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT.

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荒川アンダーザブリッジ

I'LL BE OK AS LONG AS I HAVE REC.

EVEN IF THE STARS [HOSHI] DIE...

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

HOSHI INCORRECTLY BELIEVED SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT HIM.

NINO MENTIONED THIS DURING REC'S ASTRONOMY LESSON.

MM?

WELL, I GUESS...

OBVIOUSLY.

THAT'S JUST REC TALKING...

THAT'S NOT HOW YOU FEEL, IS IT?

HUNH?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

LIKE, "EVEN IF REC DIES, I'LL BE OK IF I HAVE HOSHI!"

YOU'RE THE OPPPO-SITE!

HA HA HA HA HA HA, THAT'S DEEPLY TERRIFY-ING!

HE HAS PLENTY OF REPLACE-MENTS.

B-BUT TH- THAT'S...

...WAY MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY STAR.

REC IS...

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE

# CHAPTER 123: HOSHI'S MISUNDERSTANDING

NINO SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HIM.

SO, UH... YESTER-DAY...

WHEN WE ARRIVED AT MASS, HOSHI HAD GONE STARFISH AGAIN.

HUNH... OK.

HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE.

BEFORE I TRY AND CLEAR THINGS UP...

HEY, WHAT'S UP, HOSHI!??

HEH HEH HEH

THAT'S A HILARIOUS MISUNDER-STANDING.

THE STARS DYING...

...THAT'S WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT STAR-GAZING LAST NIGHT.

...-SAN?

OH, NO, I MEAN -SAMA.

OH...

I GOTTA TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS.

REC-SAN.

...THEN REC-SAN IS A YAMAHA PIANO.

Bell Mark Box

Last year we collected ¥10,000 and received a grand piano!

IF I'M A SINGLE BELL MARK...

...ADDRESSED YOU WITHOUT AN HONORIFIC.

I'M SORRY THAT I EVER...

HOSHI, DEFERRING TO ME?

SHAKE

SHAKE

WHAT THE HELL'S GOT INTO YOU!?

HEH HEH... HOW FAR CAN I TAKE THIS BEFORE HE SNAPS?

EVERY WORD NINO-SAN SAYS SHAKES HIS VERY WORLD!

HUNH!?

MAYBE IT'S TIME I PROPOSED TO NINO-SAN!

I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...

AH! YOU KNOW, HOSHI-KUN...

...HE'LL SNAP BACK TO NORMAL, I'M SURE.

IF I BRING NINO-SAN INTO IT...

)))

MMM!?

HEY!!

GNAT

?!

WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND!?

YEAH, THAT GOT HIM.

IT'S TOO SOON...!!

WAIT!

GHAA

SQUEAK

マッキー

SQUEEE

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Chapter 123

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 124: FRIENDSHIP PARTY

TURNED HOSHI IN A CREEPILY DEFERENTIAL THING.

UGH..

HAHH

HAHH

AN OFF-HAND REMARK BY NINO...

YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING!?

HOSHI-SAN AND REC-SAN...

WHAAAAAT!?

YES, WE ARE!

...WAIT.

HUNH? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, I'D NEVER...

ARE YOU TWO FRIENDS NOW!?

REALLY!?

ギュッ GRAB

!?

YEAH, HOSHI-KUN'S VERY MATURE.

YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO ME?

...!

AND HE'S GONNA BE MY FRIEND INSTEAD!

HE'S GONNA STOP CHASING AFTER NINO-SAN...

YEAH, CROSS MY HEART! MEN NEVER GO BACK ON THEIR WORD!

わふっ!

YAW

HUNH?

UH...

EH? EH!? REALLY, HOSHI-KUN!?

HA HA HA, RIDE THAT BIKE OFF A CLIFF ALONE!

RE-CRUIT... FRIEND...

WHAT? YOU GIGOLO...

OH??

AN AFFECTIONATE NICKNAME!

SHUNK

RIGHT, YOU DAMN STAR-FISH!

UNH... UNHHH... FR...

FRIEND ...

GUH-UHHH

WATCH THAT FINGER.

THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A FRIEND.

LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!

WHOOM

I TOTALLY DON'T GET IT, BUT...

THIS IS A GOOD THING, RIGHT?

HUNH? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY!

SOUNDS GREAT!

P-KO JUST FINISHED HER PERSONAL BREW, "RIVER BED"!

YOU WERE THE MOST EXCITED...

NOT A FAN?

YOU AREN'T DRINK-ING?

UH, WELL... I...UH

BEING DRUNK GETS YOU NOWHERE IN BUSI-NESS.

SILENCE

MM? WHAT'S WRONG, MAYOR?

YOU A LIGHT-WEIGHT?

ENH, I'M IN A GOOD MOOD, I'LL HAVE A SIP.

BLUBUBUB

I NEVER GET DRUNK.

I'M THE TYPE WHO STRIPS WHEN DRUNK.

I'D BETTER NOT.

I MEAN, SEE, I'M NOT WEARING ANYTHING AS IT IS.

NOT LIKE THAT.

OH...

I GETCHA.

HE SEEMED SO SAD.

YOU COULD JUST PUT A LOCK ON THE ZIPPER OR SOMETHING!

IT WOULD END BADLY.

SO IF I TRIED SHEDDING MY SKIN THREE SEASONS EARLY...

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Chapter 124

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Hikaru Nakamura

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 125: BOOZE, SONG, MEN, WOMEN

WHAT'S THIS? A PARTY?

HEY! ARE YOU DRINKING MY BOOZE...

...WHEN I'M NOT EVEN THERE YET!?

NINO-SAN!!

TWITCH

YO, P-KO, SORRY!

UTTERING THAT PHRASE IN FRONT OF NINO-SAN...

"WEDDING"

HOW ABOUT A SONG YOU'D PLAY AT NINO-SAN AND MY WEDDING?

NOPE, HE'S BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE.

MM? IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HOSHI'S FACE?

SHAKE SHAKE

HE'S GOT TO BE NEAR HIS LIMIT!

THERE'S NOTHING MORE INSULTING I COULD DO!

YEAH, HOSHI! GIVE US SOME MUSIC?

Seeing the two of us sealing our vow with a kiss I turned bright red

♪ ♫ ♪ ♫ STRUMM

♫ ♪ ♫ ♪ STRUMM

You and me, walking down the virgin road

WOW, REC-KUN, YOU'RE ALL RED! HAD TOO MUCH?

IS THAT BLOOD SEEPING OUT FROM UNDER THE MASK?

TH-THAT'S...

YOU GET WAAAY DRUNKER WITH FRIENDS!

DID WEIRDO HOSHI MAKE THE BOOZE TAKE HOLD?

NO, I NEVER GET...

WOAH!

WHOOPS

STAGGER

ヘトヘト...

...CERTAINLY, THE PEOPLE I CALL 'FRIENDS' ARE...

FRIENDS?

...

EVEN IF DRINKS AT A WORK EVENT DON'T HIT YOU...

PHONEY SMILES, PRAISE THEY DON'T REALLY MEAN.

JUST LIKE HE IS TODAY.

THE WAY HE IS TODAY...

She may not be a June bride! It's October, but we're all happy anyway!

HE IS A 'FRIEND' OF MINE.

SERIOUSLY, STOP

STEAM

STEAM

TRUTH IS, WHAT SHE SAID...

GIMME A DRINK!

TWIST

AHHH, I CAN'T DO THIS SOBER!

HEY...

THAT'S ENOUGH!

GLUGLUGLUGLUG

FALLS HEAD FIRST INTO THE WEDDING CAKE AND DIES!

I HOPE THE GROOM...

I HOPE YOU JAM YOUR FINGER TRADING RINGS!

HEY...

ZHANG

ZHANG

.. WILL BE WITNESSING YOUR DIVORCE PAPERS!

THE FIRST FAVOR I DO YOU...

HUNH?

I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE ALIVE!

I MEAN

AH HYA

HYA

HYA

HYA

HUNH? I NEVER SAID A WORD ABOUT THAT!

I AIN'T GIVIN' HER TO YOU!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA LAY OFF FOR NINO-SAN'S SAKE!

HA HA HA...

HA HA HA

AW, I THOUGHT THEY WERE FRIENDS NOW!

SHUT UP AND DIE, HIJIKI DOUCHE!

I HATE YOU A HUNDRED TIMES HARDER, STARFISH HEAD!

ONLY THE GROOM MUST DIE!

DIE, GROOM!

OH, A 'GROOM'?

HEY, SHIRO...

WHAT EXACTLY IS A 'GROOM'?

YOU DIE FIRST!

DIE, GROOM!

WELL, I THINK...

HUNH?

I MEAN, I MIGHT BE A GROOM SOMEDAY...

Drunk

WITH YOU

OH, NINO-SAN, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!

THAT IS THE WORST SONG!

DIEE!

OH...

...WANT YOU TO BE A GROOM!

I NEVER EVER EVER...

YEAH, GROOMS...

HUNH?

BUT REC TOOK THREE DAYS TO RECOVER.

TALKING TO NINO CLEARED UP HOSHI'S CONFUSION...

PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER BE OLE

YOU INTO HORSES OR SOME-THING?

HIC

HIC

...HORSES KICK THEM TO DEATH THEY ALL THE GET PAID TIME. FOR SHIT, TOO.

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Chapter 125

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荒川アンダーザブリッジ

BUT WHEN NINO WAS SLEEPWALKING, SHE CAME BACK TO HER OWN.

AIEEEE

ONCE, REC AND NINO ATTEMPTED TO TRADE ROOMS...

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

WHEW...

SO THEY WOUND UP SWITCHING BACK.

THE CHAIR MIGHT BE ADJUSTED FOR HER HEIGHT...

MORE OF NINO'S STUFF, SURE...

FIVE DAYS SINCE I CLIMBED UP HERE.

NOT VERY LONG, BUT I WONDER IF THE ROOM'S CHANGED?

I WOULD TOTALLY BE DOWN FOR CHANGES LIKE THAT!

I'M HOME...

AND THE SMELL OF HER HAIR ON THE AIR...

CLKC

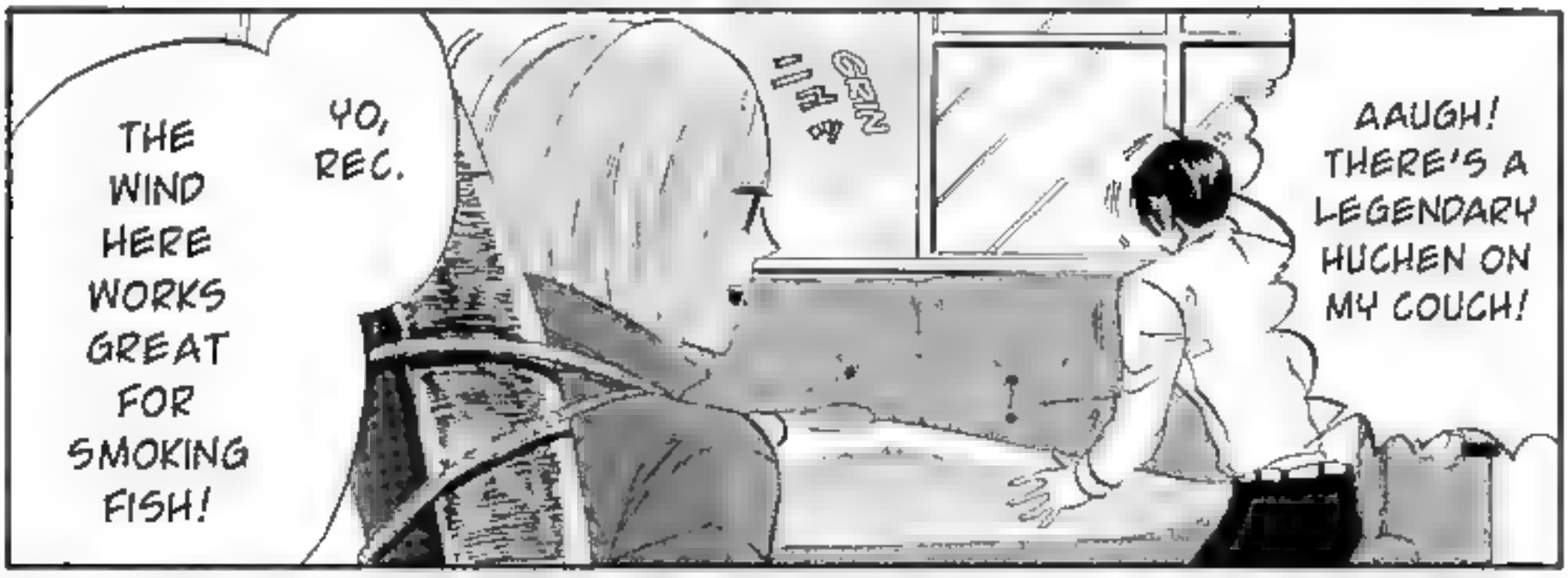
ｶﾁｬ

UGH, DEAD FISH STA- AAANK!

# 荒川アンダーブリッジ

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE

# CHAPTER 126: INSIDE THE CAN



WHAT'S THIS?

CLNK

HMM...

IT'S NOT MINE..SO IT MUST BE NINO-SAN'S?

I'M SUPER WIPED.

THUMP ポ"

DRAG ズ"

THAT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE ILLUSTRATION INCLUDED AS A MESSAGE TO ALIENS...

HOW DID YOU GET TO THE WINDOW !?

JUST OPEN THAT CAN ALREADY.

WHY DO YOU LIVE SO HIGH UP?

ON THE VOYAGER SPACE PROBE IN 1977!

N-NO, IT'S HERS, WE CAN'T JUST...

NOW, BEFORE THE VENU- SIAN COMES HOME...

...OPEN THAT BOX!

IF I CARED ONLY FOR MY LIFE, I WOULDN'T BE THE EARTH DEFENSE FORCE CAPTAIN!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!?

AND SHE'S A GIRL.

THERE MIGHT BE TOILET- RIES OR UNDER- WEAR...

N-NO, WE CAN'T!

AS HER BOYFRIEND, I...

URGH ..

RIGHT, LET'S GET THIS OPEN.

I'M AGAINST IT.

THANKS FOR COOP- ERAT- ING!

YANK

I'M ABSOLUTELY AGAINST IT. UNDERWEAR ARE JUST BITS OF CLOTH!

I CAN'T LET ANOTHER MAN SEE...

THAT'S WHY I WAS AGAINST THIS.

THAT'S

WOHH

WHAT'S THIS!? A CASSETTE TAPE?

IN DAYS TO COME, REC WOULD OFTEN CHANT IN HIS SLEEP, "I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE CLOTH, REALLY, I DIDN'T."

WAAAAH

BECAUSE I KNEW FULL WELL NINO-SAN WOULD NEVER LEAVE...

...SUCH AN EXCITING PANDORA'S BOX!

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# CHAPTER 127: CASSETTE TAPE

...CLEARLY INSTRUC-TIONS FROM HER HOME PLANET!

HMM! THIS IS...!

YEAH, I'M PRETTY SURE VENUS WOULDN'T HAVE TAPES.

GRAB

COM-MAN-DEERING YOUR DECK!

THAT WASN'T MY CON-CERN!

I CAN TRANS-LATE FOR YOU.

I SPEAK MANY ALIEN LAN-GUAGES.

AND WE CAN'T DO THIS...

...THOSE ARE NINO-SAN'S, THEY MIGHT BE IMPORTANT.

HEH HEH, DON'T WORRY, REC-KUN. IT'LL BE FINE.

HEY!

CLICK

OK, PRESS-ING PLAY!

Crackle

WOW..THEY REALLY AREN'T IN JAPANESE.

...!?

SQUEAK

STAY QUIET, I'M TRYING TO TRANS-LATE...

SHHHH

SHH

IS THAT ...?

CALM DOWN.

...ALL EARTH-LINGS!?

OH MY GOD!

QUIVER

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THIS IS ENGLISH.

AN AGENT FROM CANCER ...

...WILL MASSA-CRE...

FROWN

"IN 300 LIGHT YEARS..."

I'VE DISCOVERED A SECRET MESSAGE FROM THE VENUSIANS!

HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?

BEEEEEEP

EARTH DEFENSE FORCE ASSEMBLE!

99 999 TKK TKK TKK

THMP THMP THMP

TKK TKK TKK 99 999

AND NO EARTH DEFENCE FORCE IS...

KAPPA GREEN!

PROTECTOR OF WATER, THE GREEN WARRIOR...

SISTER BLACK!

THE POWER OF URANIAN BURNING IN HEART...

STAR YELLOW!

FUELED BY THE MIRACULOUS POWER OF THE SHOOTING STAR...

HIS HEART AND HIS HAIRSTYLE SCREAM STEELY JUSTICE...

CAPTAIN RED!

HUNH.

AHH!

NOBODY BUT ME CAN BE RED!

AHH!

AND BLACK, DON'T USE C4 AS A SMOKE BOMB!

HEH, YELLOW! DON'T STRIKE THE SAME POSE AS RED!

IT'S STARTING TO FEEL IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP HIM LIVING HERE.

THEY GET ALONG SO WELL.

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荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 128: MESSAGE FROM VENUS

JUST JUMPED TO A CONCLUSION AND RAN OUT. GOOD!

YEAH

RAH RAH

3

CLICK

SHEESH, HE BARELY LISTENED TO IT...

GONNA REWIND THIS AND PUT IT BACK IN THE BOX.

RIGHT ...

MY GIRL-FRIEND'S.

BUT IT IS...

I CAN'T JUST LISTEN TO SOMEONE ELSE'S STUFF

NOD NOD

IT'S NOT MINE...

OR...

NOPE, PUT IT BACK.

LOOK

LOOK

.....

.....

ARGH!

CLICK

I PUSHED IT!
I PUSHED IT!

OH CRAP, I'M THE WORST!

Zzhh...
shaaa

SHHHAAAA

!?

VENUS...?

WAS THAT SCI-FI NERD RIGHT!?

zzzt

I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT NINO-SAN!

BUT I WANNA KNOW!

The other day

WARN-ING?

This is a warning.

We are Venusians.

AITA

VISION

We went to Aita for the first time.

It was a disappointingly normal department store.

Sign "Is OK to Laugh Audience Entrance"

I should have known...

They wouldn't let me see Morita-san

WHO GIVES A SHIT!?

WHAT THE...

Even though I got a new haircut for the occasion.

I'D BETTER STOP IT.

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE THIS IS BETTER

WHEW

Now, I'll get to the point..

Now I'm going to brush my teeth

THIS...

...HAS NOTHING IMPORTANT ON IT!?

I GOT ALL NERVOUS FOR NOTHING!

Our beloved Venusian Queen..

Do not repeat what we are about to say to anyone.

I BROUGHT YOU ONE OF THE SMOKED..

HEY, REC.

CLICK

EH?

THAT IS, UH...

THIS IS...

CLICK

CRAAAP!

B- BUT...

WHAT NOW? THIS IS REALLY BAD!

YOU...

AH!

IF I APOLO-GIZE...

I'M... I'M SORRY.

NINO-SAN NEVER GETS MAD ABOUT ANYTHING...

JUST BE HONEST...

AND CURIOSITY GOT THE BETTER OF ME.

I JUST FELT LIKE I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU...

MAYBE SHE'LL UNDER-STAND!

NINO-SAN?

NI...

THUMP

GLANCE

I'M REALLY SORRY!

AND APOLO-GIZE.

THUMP

2-3

NI...

DASH

GRAB

I THINK I MADE HER MAD.

...INTIMIDATION!?

WAS THAT...?

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

NINO-SAN, PLEASE WAIT!

ｷｷｷ ｷｷ ｷｷ ｷｷ ｷｷ ｷｷ ｷｷ ｷｷ

ｶ ｶ ｶ ｶ ｶ ｶ ｶ ｶ ｶ ｶ

NINO-SAN!

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

LAST TIME, REC...

!!

RRRAAHH

JUST TALK TO ME...

NINO-SAN, I'M BEGGING YOU...

NINO-SAN, DON'T GO UP THERE!

ﾓｯ

"GASP"

NI...!?

THEN NINO CAUGHT HIM AT IT....

OPENED A BOX NINO HAD KEPT HIDDEN...

I'M GENUINELY SORRY!

SO, PLEASE...

STARE

じ"ー

NATURALLY, NINO IS NOW...

AND STARTED LISTENING TO THE SECRET MESSAGE ON THE TAPES INSIDE.

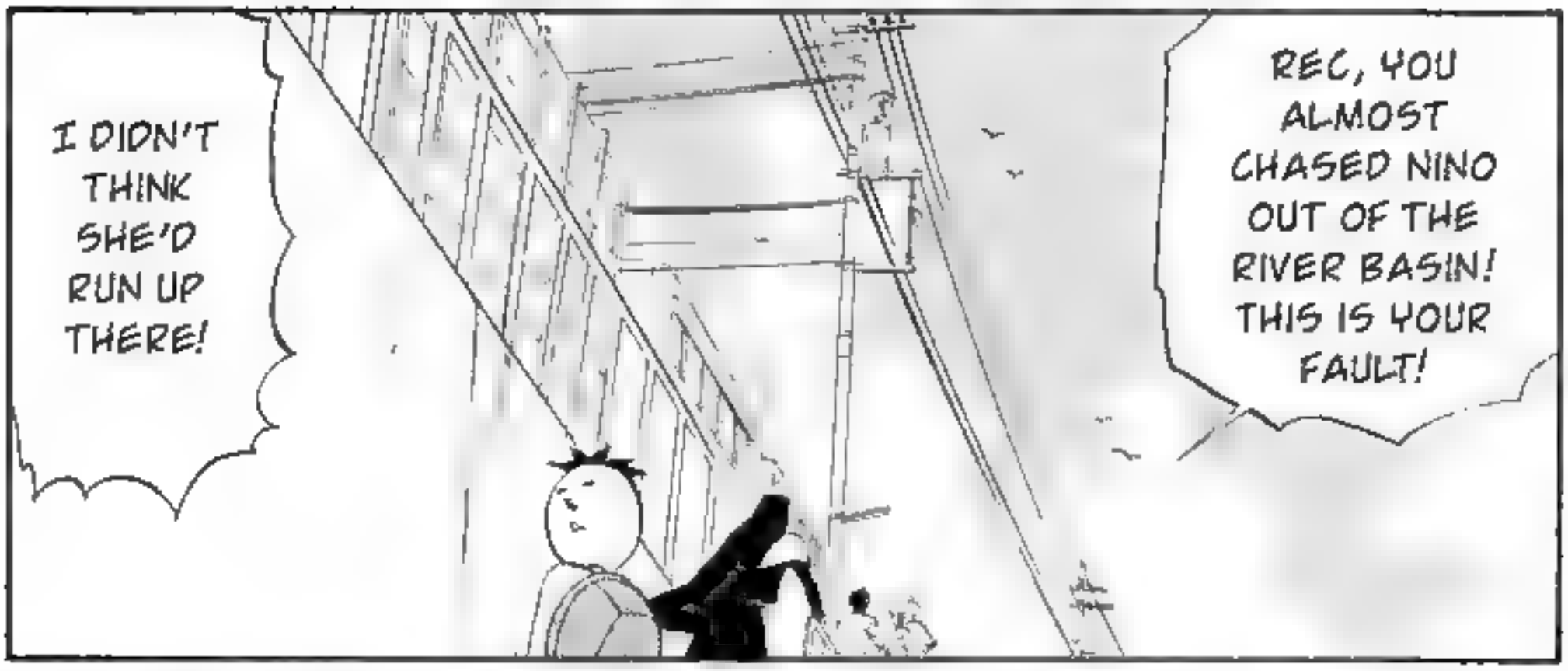
COME DOWN FROM THERE!

THOR-OUGHLY FURI-OUS.



# #荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 129: ATOP A TELEPHONE POLE



...ACTUALLY MAKING SENSE? NOT RAVING ABOUT DEFEATING THE VENUSIAN!
HUNH, IS HE...
Y-YEAH...
REC-KUN, HIGH PLACES ARE DANGEROUS! IF WE DON'T GET HER DOWN NOW...

YOU'RE CLEARLY APPEALING TO A DIFFERENT APPETITE!

RUSTLE RUSTLE

CAN YOU HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD?

ARE YOU DRUGGING THOSE COOKIES, SISTER?

SO IT IS.

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

GRR

BUT IT'S WORK-ING.

DID YOU JUST USE A BIRD, NINO-SAN!?

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

HMM, SHE'S HELL BENT ON STAYING UP THERE.

FLAP FLAP

SNATCH

GO!!

WSH

BUT IF THIS GETS HER NOW...

FLAP FLAP FLAP

I CAN'T TALK TO HER UP THERE.

BUT IF ALL I'VE SAID WON'T BRING HER DOWN...

ACK...

OK, NINO-SAN.

IF PUSHING DOESN'T WORK, I'LL HAVE TO PULL BACK.

SHE'S RUNNING NOW...

HOW CAN I?

HUNH?

TURN

YANK

COME ON, EV-ERYONE. LET'S LEAVE HER BE.

I UNDER-STAND WHAT I DID CAN'T BE FORGIVEN.

IT'LL BE FINE.

GLANCE

SHE'S TECHNICALLY LEFT THE RIVER BASIN UP THERE...

BUT SHE'LL COME DOWN IF NO ONE'S THERE.

I'M SORRY I CHASED YOU.

SHE'LL GET LONELY AND...

OH NO... SHE'S CON-TROLLING THEM ALL!

SQUAWK

SQUAWK

FLAP

FLAP

HOO

HOO

WOW

HOLY CRAP, WHAT KINDA BIRD IS THAT?

NINO-SAN'S TRUE FORM WAS A FERAL CHILD.

TOO MUCH COMPANY!

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 130: MESSAGES

HONESTLY, REC-KUN... YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WOMEN!

SWISH

AUGH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

WHAT? I'M HERE TO HELP.

I KNOW WHAT A GIRL WANTS YOU TO SAY...

TWITCH

M-MARIA-SAN!?

**MARIA-SAN IS A WOMAN, TOO...**

MARIA-SAN...

SHH

HERE. JUST READ THIS ALOUD.

AND I'VE BROUGHT YOU A SCRIPT.

HEH HEH

UM... KOFF

"NINO-SAN..."

TH-THANK YOU...!

SHE MIGHT UNDER-STAND NINO-SAN BETTER THAN ME.

A SCRIPT?

"PLEASE CRUSH ME WITH YOUR BATHROOM SLIPPERS."

"I AM BUT A HUMBLE, TALKATIVE COCKROACH."

DON'T WORRY, IT'S BEAU-TIFULLY WRITTEN.

THIS IS A MANGA!

HOW CAN IT BE...

WHAT IS THIS, MARIA-SAN?

IF THIS IS WHAT NINO-SAN WANTS TO HEAR, I MAY NOT RECOVER FROM IT.

I'LL TRUST HER ONE MORE TIME...!

I'M SURE SHE'LL COME DOWN.

PUT SOME FEELING INTO IT.

THAT SMILE...

RIGHT, SORRY, WRONG SCRIPT.

"I'M WAITING FOR YOUR RETURN MEOWTH MASTER."

"MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOOOW."

Book "Meow Meow Maid Story"

MEOW MEOW MEOW BA-BUMP?? MEOW MEOW MEOW.

MEOW MEOW MEOW MEEE-MEEEOW

A WEEKLY MAGA-ZINE!? THESE THINGS ARE TRASH!

THOSE WERE WARM UPS.

YOU HAVE TO READ THE REAL ONE PER-FECTLY.

IT'S NOT EVEN IN HUMAN!

SLAM

.....

FINE...

WE'LL AGREE I TRICKED YOU, BUT TRUST ME THIS ONCE.

PERFECT MEDI-CINE FOR GROWN-UP LOVE.

I GOT IT WRONG AGAIN! IT'S THIS ONE.

CAN WE TRY SEPARATION FIRST?

HONEY...

CBA!!

BUT THIS IS ADULT LOVE!

IT'S TINGED WITH SAD-NESS...

Divorce Mediation Special

The last thing you should say

"Honey, can we try separation first?"

If you separate, that's what they want! Mediation won't progress

...UH...

APPARENTLY, HAVING HOBBIES AFTER RETIREMENT GREATLY REDUCES DIVORCE.

IT'S MUCH TOO SAD!

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荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 131: WEIGHTIER THAN WORDS

FIRST OF ALL...

YEP.

ENOUGH! I WAS A FOOL TO EVER TRUST YOU!

NINO-SAN, I REALLY AM SORRY!

I SHOULD USE MY OWN WORDS.

SAY WHAT I REALLY FEEL.

FLAP FLAP FLAP

...WHAT-EVER IT IS, I'LL ACCEPT IT!

I PROM-ISE...

BUT...!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HIDING STUFF FROM ME, EITHER.

OHHH! NINO-SAN...

GHH

SHE RELEASED HER DEFENSIVE STANCE!

EH!?

UH, HEY!

WHOOOSH

SHE'S...EVEN ANGRIER?

I-I WILL!

NOD

NOD

GHH

THINK CARE-FULLY, REC...

THEN...

...GO AHEAD AND LISTEN!

THUMP

GHHP

RAAAGHH!

...THEN WHAT YOU'RE FEELING NOW.

WHAT'S INSIDE THAT BOX IS FAR WEIGHTIER...

EH?

...IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

HERE IT.

ACCEPTING ANYTHING AND EVERY-THING...

THE HUMAN HEART...

SHH

IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT IT...

...IS BOTH HEAVY AND FRAGILE.

IN THAT INSTANT...

EVERYTHING CRUMBLES.

WE'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT.

HEY, NO! NINO'S STILL UN-HAPPY!

LET GO!

YANK

RIGHT, YOU TWO, WE'RE LEAVING.

THE BOX UNDER MY ARM...

NOT GOING TO LISTEN?

UH..

YEAH, MAYBE I SHOULD THINK ABOUT IT A BIT MORE...

SILENCE

WELL?

BUT THINK HARD.

WAIT... MAYOR!

HEY...!

FELT VERY HEAVY INDEED.

YEAH.

...LOOKED READY TO SHATTER.

HER SMILE...

...WHAT MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE THAT.

grggrggg

Do not repeat what we are about to

...WANNA KNOW...

Whirrr beloved Venusian Queen.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID...

YEAH, BUT I REALLY...

CLICK

CLKC

REC?

REC...

Giiiigolo
gigolo
gigolo
giiiigolo
gigloooo

HEH HEH HEH, WELL? I FOUND THAT EARLIER...

HAH HAH

♪ Giiiigolo gigolo gigolo giiiigolo gigloooo gigolon gigolo gigolo gilogo gigolo! ♪

♪ Gigolooooo ♫

♪ gi...goloo? ♪

HUNH?

HOSHI'S SURPRISE PRESENT WAS TOO WEIGHTY TO ACCEPT.

HUNH?

♪ Gigolooo gigololon ♫ gigolooo ♪

ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU

NOTHING ON IT BUT WEIRD ENGLISH SO I RECORDED OVER IT!

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BUT THEY WERE LOST. WHEN HOSHI RECORDED HIS SONG OVER THEM.

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

NINO'S SECRETS WERE RECORDED ON THIS TAPE.

SAD, DEPRESSED (COMPARATIVELY), BUT...

♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪

NINO-SAN LOOKED AS IF SHE'D LOST A TREASURE...

YOU CHASED HER TO THE TOP OF A TELE-PHONE POLE...

NOT ONLY DID YOU DIG UP NINO'S SECRET...

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

PER-HAPS THE MOST SUR-PRIS-ING REAC-TION...

I HEARD THE NOISE, AND CAME RUNNING...

UH, THAT WASN'T ME...

THEN RUINED HER TAPE...

SILENCE!

...WAS P-KO, AT THE HEAD OF THE FEMALE BRIGADE.

MEN ARE LIKE APHIDS! A BLIGHT ON ALL PLANTS!

!!

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 132: PAJAMA PARTY

NINO DOESN'T EVEN WANNA SEE YOUR STUPID FACE!

I JUST WANT TO TALK TO...

I AGREE, ABSO-LUTELY!

THESE THOUGHT-LESS MEN HAVE BEEN SO CRUEL!

HUG

OH, POOR NINO...!

HONEST-LY...

SLUMP

THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW WOMEN FEEL!

YOU SPEND THE NIGHT WRACKED WITH REGRET!

SHINK

P...

PAJAMA PARTY TIME!

RRRAARR

WE'LL TALK THIS OUT! JUST US GIRLS!

SQUIDS GOOD

HEY, WAIT...

I BROUGHT ALL THESE COOKIES!

LET'S DO THIS PAJAMA PARTY AND FORGET ALL THOSE IDIOTS!

GET THAT TRACK SUIT OFF, NINO!

YOU DID?

...WE DID THIS IN HIGH SCHOOL A LOT.

TAKES ME BACK...

ESPE-CIAL-LY!

LIKE GOLDEN CORN.

MAKING SUCH A CUTE GIRL CRY... THAT REC!

WAS THAT BAD?

...

THE WAY HE BACKED DOWN WHEN I SAID TO?

EEK! THAT LOOKS AMAZING, NINO!

GRAB

WAIT!

YES!

AT TIMES LIKE THAT, A LITTLE FORCE...

...AT LEAST UNTIL MY DISH RUNS DRY!

JUST HEAR ME OUT...

IDEAL LOVE IS...

MEN REALLY GOTTA BE STRONG!

A TALL, GENTLE MAN...

STRONG, LIKE SISTER...

I DUNNO ...

LIKE THAT...?

...IDIOT...

THE LEG OF LOVE IS RAISED TO YOU FOREVER, MY YOKOZUNA.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT...

IS THAT HOW BIG YOU WANNA BE, STELLA-CHAN!?

...SO YOU CAN PROTECT THEM.

I TRUST YOU, STELLA!

AND GROWING EVEN BIGGER AND STRONGER...

ME?

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEAL, MARIA?

TAKES ALL KINDS.

BANG

AUGHH! I'M FIT TO BE TIED!

BANG

WOW, MARIA, YOU'RE LIKE A CHINESE MOTHER LION!

A MAN WHO CLIMBS BACK UP AFTER BEING THROWN INTO A VALLEY A HUNDRED TIMES... THAT'S THE BARE MINIMUM.

SO COOL ♡

...AS UN-TRAINED DOGS.

I THINK OF MEN...

SORRY, BUT I'M COMING IN!

SHINK

BUT A MAN WHO WON'T COME BACK IF YOU PUSH HIM AWAY IS...

OH...

MM.

NO, JUST... TO REPLACE HER CASSETTE TAPE...

I WANT TO TALK TO NINO-SAN!

TRYING TO BUY HER HEART BACK?

WH-WHAT?

GUESS YOU'VE GOT THE GUTS OF A LION CUB, AT LEAST.

HEH HEH

MAYBE IT WON'T DO THAT.

HAHH HAHH

BUT TO ATONE FOR THE... THE SIN OF LISTENING TO NINO-SAN'S SECRET TAPE...

I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR NINO-SAN.

HAHH

PLEASE, TAKE MY SECRET TAPE!

I CONFESSED MY OWN EMBARRASSING SECRET.

HAHH

DON'T TOUCH THAT, NINO.

OH...

HAHH

YOU ACCEPTED IT

SLAP

HAHH

I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE TYPE, REC-KUN.

P-KO HAS DECIDED THIS IS THE WORST PRESENT IMAGINABLE.

RIGHT, REC. CATCH YOUR BREATH, AND GET ON YOUR KNEES.

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Chapter 132

Arakawa Under the Bridge
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Hikaru Nakamura

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 133: REC'S SECRET TAPE

I DO REGRET LISTENING TO IT WITHOUT ASKING...

...BUT I DO WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT NINO-SAN.

NO, NOT QUITE.

YOU'RE USED TO THAT POSE, HUNH?

AT ANY RATE, THAT'S WHY I MADE THE TAPE.

IN WHICH CASE, FIRST I SHOULD SHARE MORE ABOUT MYSELF.

*Hello. My name is Recruit. Also known as Kou Ichinomiya.*

CLICK

WANNA GIVE IT A LISTEN, NINO?

NOD

*...I scored 105%.*

*Because.*

*But once.*

*Naturally, I have never scored less than 100% on a test.*

NO.

YOU TRYIN' TO START SOME-THING?

LISTEN

PUSH

TH-THANK YOU!

I'D BEEN SO SURE I'D ERASED IT PROPERLY.

+5!
Cool signature. Do you want to be an idol, Kou-kun?
Kou-Go is a clever twist.
1995.6.21

I'D BEEN PRACTICING MY SIGNATURE ON THE BACK.

Um, next in 7th grade

NOD
うん
うん NOD
うん

NOD
うん
うん
うん NOD

I SOUGHT TO AVOID THE GREATEST DANGER IN RELAY-- DROPPING THE BATON.

わあ
あああ
WAAAAH

TO MAKE SURE MY OWN RUN WAS FLAW-LESS...

WHIRRR

I was selected to take part in a relay race.

BUT ON THE DAY...

NOW I WON'T DROP IT!

I INVENTED A NEW WAY TO HOLD THE BATON.

To get the others fired up, I was always the first runner.

Thus earning me the nickname, "Does not pass Go."

OF COURSE, WE WON.

OF COURSE, WE WON.

NICE PASS!

NICE PASS!

It was far harder to release the baton than I thought.

I had to run the whole course alongside the other runners.

JUST... STOP IT!

So next, in high school, my first time at karaoke.

NOD

NOD

LOOK, ALL OF THESE ARE THINGS I WISH I COULD UNDO...

I CAN'T BEAR IT!

RAAAHH

YOU'RE LISTENING TO IT WITH THAT SMUG LOOK ON YOUR FACE!

NOBODY WANTS TO HEAR CONFES-SIONS LIKE THIS!

WHY!? MY BARE-NAKED CONFESSION LAID OUT BEFORE NINO-SAN...

SNAP

LOOK AT YOU!

WELL, THAT'S PRETTY MATURE OF YOU...

BUT I'M ONLY HUMAN. I HAVE MY FAILINGS...

...WOULD JUST BE DOWNRIGHT UNNATURAL.

SOMEONE WHO'S TOO PERFECT...

IN TEN YEARS...

...DON'T REALLY BOTHER ME.

A FEW MINOR FLAWS...

**HE'LL LEARN HOW TERRIFYING BEING OLD CAN BE.**

HA HA, THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME!

• OLD FASHION • OLD DIARY

I KEPT WALKING
I FELT LIKE I WOULD
FIND SOMETHING
IMPORTANT WHY? WHAT
WAS I LOOKING FOR?

• OLD PHOTO POSES • OLD MEMES

UGHHHH

YOU'RE GOING TO REMEMBER SAYING THAT.

AND BE SO EMBARRASSED YOU'LL WANT TO DIE.

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Chapter 133

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Hikaru Nakamura

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 134: PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT

YOU'RE DONE! NINO DOESN'T...

WAIT, NINO-SAN...

KICK

KICK

GET THE HELL OUT!

YOU AREN'T MAKING ANYONE HAPPY!

N-NINO-SAN!

GASP

HAVE ANY-THING TO SAY TO YOU!

HUNH? IS THIS THAT THING ABOUT OWING PEOPLE AGAIN?

IF I LEAVE NOW, I'LL FALL APART!

GOHAAA

STOP MAKING THAT FACE!

THOUGH IT MAY BE A NEW DISEASE.

NO, THIS ISN'T ASTHMA.

.....

EEEK! WHAT? SLIDING...!?

MY BELLY AND HEART HURT LIKE THEY'RE RIPPING APART!

NINO-SAN, WHEN I SEE THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE...

.....

THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT!? YOU MADE HER MAD! YOU MADE HER SAD!

...EVERY WORD THAT'S ON THOSE TAPES.

I KNOW...

HUNH?

I'M NOT ANGRY OR SAD.

THEN...

TH-THEN ...

AND...

I'M NOT LEAVING HERE...

...UNTIL I SEE YOU SMILE!

...BUT IF I DO, I THOUGHT YOU'D LEAVE.

I KNOW I SHOULD TELL YOU...

I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT ANSWER.

I'M SCARED.

NEVER REALLY REACHED HER EARS.

BUT THOSE WORDS ...

I'D SAID BEFORE I WOULD ALWAYS BE WITH HER.

I'LL TAKE THIS TAPE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.

I ONLY JUST REALIZED THAT.

AT LAST...

I'M SORRY.

NINO-SAN.

REC...

BUT VENUS IS STILL FAR AWAY.

SMOOTH MOVE.

FLIP ぽっ

YEAH

IT WAS A LITTLE TOO SOON FOR HIM TO HEAR.

THE ENGINES ARE LIT.

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

荒川アンダーザブリッジ

SPARK MIGHT IGNITE...

WHEN A FIRE IS LIT IN TWO HEARTS...

THE HEARTS OF THOSE WATCHING.

OHHH...

IF ONLY THE MAYOR AND I COULD...

EEEK!

EEK...

...IF I FAKE TRIP?

I GOTTA GET CLOSER...

TRIP

HEH HEH...

STARE

ボケ

AT THIS RATE A MIRACLE WILL NEVER HAPPEN.

WHA...?

P-KO!

THE MAYOR WILL CATCH ME!

WHOOOSH

FOREARM THROW!!!!

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE

荒川アンダーブリッジ

# ☜CHAPTER 135: ARAKAWA SPRING SUMO EVENT

P-KO, OF ALL PEOPLE...

WHEW, DIDN'T EXPECT THAT!

THUD

...OF ARAKAWA SUMO YOKOZUNA!

荒川大相撲

COMING AFTER THE TITLE...

(Arakawa Sumo)

THUD

IS ME!!

SHHHH

LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO SHOW EVERYONE AGAIN...

SNIFF

SNIFF

THAT THE STRONGEST SUMO WRESTLER IN THE ARAKAWA RIVER BASIN...

DING

ATTENTION!

FAVOR

ER...

DING

DING

DING

IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

THE 12TH ARAKAWA SUMO EVENT...

TONK

TONK

TONK

TONK

TONK

荒川大相撲

WHAT, YOU AIN'T EVEN JOINING IN?

I DUNNO, IS THAT WHAT THE REFEREES SAY?

IS THAT WHY YOU ASKED TO REF-EREE?

FUME

MOONEY MAN

DIGS UP MEMORIES I SEALED AWAY...

FUME

THE RESIDENT COWARD, REC-TAN!

GRR

YEP

MAWASHI ARE HOLY...

WE'RE GIRLS!

YOU GUYS PUT IT ON OVER YOUR CLOTHES, TOO?

NAH...

IT'S THE MAWASHI I'M AGAINST!

YOU'RE SHOWING THE LEAST SKIN OF ANYONE HERE.

GLAP

A MAWASHI OVER A NAKED BODY IS THE BEAUTY OF SUMO!

CAN CHALLENGE ME FOR THE YOKOZUNA TITLE.

ANYWAY, WHICHEVER OF THE CHALLENGERS SURVIVES...

FIVE BOTTLES OF P-KO'S SPECIAL BREW, "RIVER BED"

OH? PRIZE?

AND...

EVEN GIRLS

MORE JOIN IN THAN YOU THOUGHT?

WELL, THE PRIZE IS PRETTY GREAT.

YEEEAH

EVERY-ONE, FIGHT YOUR BEST!

CAT TRICK

GLAP

LOTS OF FIGHTERS HERE...

SHIROKO-DAMA.

MY OWN...

PSST

I LOVE THIS STUFF.

I GOTTA WIN

WOW, AMAZING.

IT CAN DECORATE THE SPACE UNDER THE FLOOR-BOARDS.

I PROMISE WE'D THROW ANYTHING THAT GROSS OUT IMMEDI-ATELY.

GRAB

...YOU REALIZE SHIRIKODAMA CAN BE CONSIDERED A KAPPAS VERY LIFE?

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Chapter 135

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Hikaru Nakamura

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
荒川アンダーザブリッジ

# CHAPTER 136: THE PATH TO VICTORY

OOOOH, THE FIRST MATCH!

OK, FIRST MATCH START.

TO THE EAST, SISTER-NOSEKI!

WE'RE LIKELY TO SEE BLOOD FROM ONE OR THE OTHER!

THESE TWO ARE MASTER AND PUPIL.

STEL-LANO-HANA!

TO THE WEST ...

...WILL BE UN-LEASED TODAY!

OOH

GO!

I'VE BEEN TRAINING, EVEN WHEN YOU WEREN'T LOOKING...

RRRROOOAH

FACE EACH OTHER...

STELLA!

THAT EFFORT...

HEH HEH HEH... I WON'T HOLD BACK, SISTER...

UP!
UP!

EEEK

ぶん
ぶん

AIR-
PLANE!

THERE.

ぴょ～ん
HIGG

OH.
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN
HERE?

UP
NEXT...

YEAH,
YEAH.
SISTERNO-
SEKI WINS
BY AIR-
PLANE.

I LOST!

ZANG

WHILE HOSHI
NOKAWA IS
MORE OF A
FEMINIST
THAN HE
APPEARS
TO BE.

DESPITE HER
APPEARANCE.
RUMOR HAS IT
MARIANOHAMA
IS THE
STRONGEST
IN ARAKAWA!

BEAUTIFUL
SMILE.
STELLA-
NOHANA.

ZANG

EVEN IF YOU DO, YOU WON'T WIN.

TAP

ERP..

CAN HOSHINOKAWA REALLY GO AFTER MARIANOHAMA?

ACK..

GOT NO CHOICE! SORRY, MARIA! NO HOLDS BARRED!

GO!

BUT IF YOU DON'T, SHE'LL KILL YOU.

SOME-BODY, HELP ME!

EH? WHAT? DID I HURT YOU?

POP

EEEK!

THUNK

UNH

HUNH?

SOME ROTTON PICKLED DAIKON OF A MAN JUST...

I CAN UNDER-STAND HIM GETTING MAD HERE.

NOOO! KEEP THOSE PICKLE-STENCHED HANDS OFF ME!

GO GO!

DID YOU SAY ROTTON PICKLED DAIKON?

OOOH, MARIA'S SPECIALTY, THE ACID TONGUE CAT TRICK!

YES, PICKLES ARE DE-LICIOUS...

BUT...

IT SEEMS THE AUDIENCE AGREES!

TRUTH!

YOU...

PICKLES ARE DELI-CIOUS!

AN UNEX-PECTED COME-BACK!

PICKLING IN YOUR BACKPACK AT THE END OF SUMMER VACATION!

ONES YOU FOUND...

EVEN A PICKLE...

MARIANO-HAMA WINS BY DISPAR-AGEMENT!

THUD

WOULD SAY YOU SMELL LIKE PICKLED GYM SNEAKERS.

YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY, FOR ONCE.

SNIFF

SNIFF

I THINK THAT BLOW'S GONNA HURT ALL SUMMER!

HA HA HA

QUITE A NOVEL APPROACH EMPLOYED BY MARIANOHAMA THERE. WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

ALL THAT'S LEFT ARE SISTER, MARIA-SAN...

AND...

UM... SO THE NEXT FIGHT...

FOOM

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN BEAT...

SORRY, MAN.

HUNH?

BOTH MARIA AND SISTER DROPPED OUT BEFORE THE FINALS?

HUNH!!?

...FEEL FEAR SOME-TIMES.

EVEN I...

WHAT HAP-PENED?

NEITHER OF THEM WOULD EVER...

IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT...

YEAH... THERE ARE FIGHTS YOU SHOULD NOT AT-TEMPT.

IF I BEAT THAT...

HEH...

SOMEONE LIKE THAT LIVES UNDER THE BRIDGE?

WHO IS IT?

I WOULDN'T BE HUMAN!

MAKES A KAPPA'S BLOOD SURGE.

THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING.

DON'T STOP ME, P-KO!

DON'T, MAYOR! DIDN'T YOU HEAR THEM!?

MY LEGENDARY PUSH WILL...

COME ON!!

SLAP

MAYOR!

SLAP

WHOEVER IT IS...

I LIVE FOR A GOOD SUMO MATCH.

I WON'T GIVE UP MY TITLE SO EASILY!

IF I LEAVE THE WHITE LINES...

...MY WIFE WILL TURN INTO A CORNISH HEN!

SHAKE

SHAKE

I'LL TAKE YOU...

SHAKE

SHAKE

IT SEEMS ...

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO MY WIFE!

I CAN'T STEP OFF... I CAN'T STEP OFF...

THE MAYOR DROPPED OUT. SHIRO-SAN WON THE MARATHON AND THE SUMO TOURNAMENT.

100% HE'S SAYING THAT TO THREATEN US.

TERRIFYING

...THERE ARE MEN EVEN I CAN'T PUSH OUT.

**ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE 5 THE END**

# AFTERWORD

THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP ARAKAWA 5! VOLUME 5... WOWWWW. I GET LIKE THIS EVERY TIME A VOLUME COMES OUT. THIS IS THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR READING IT, MY EDITORS, AND MY FAMILY. I'M SO GRATEFUL. I HOPE YOU KEEP FOLLOWING REC AND THE OTHERS!

...ROAD.....

I'VE NEVER DRAWN THE SORT OF FAN SERVICE STUFF YOU USUALLY GET ON EXTRA PAGES, SO I PUT GLASSES ON EVERYBODY BECAUSE IT SEEMS LIKE YOU ALL REALLY LIKE GLASSES (IS THIS MADE UP?) EVEN THE MAYOR LOOKS SMART.

A BONUS MANGA FOLLOWS. PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME IF I LIKE YOKAI, SO I'VE DONE A LITTLE MANGA ABUOT A CHANCE MEETING WITH A YOKAI? GHOST? FAIRY? IT'S NEITHER HORROR NOT COMEDY...

A MYSTERIOUS MAN THAT APPEARED IN THE BATHROOM OF THE APARTMENT I LIVED IN AS A KID.

POP

ぽわー

1 SPONGE MAN

WHAM

YOU OK?

SCARED, I RAN OUT...

AND GRIN-NED.

HEY

I WAS REACHING FOR THE SPONGE AND HE SHOWED UP.

DON'T WORRY.

THE MAN IN THERE IS A GOD, SO DON'T BE SCARED.

I DECIDED THE SPONGE GOD WAS SOME SORT OF GUARD-IAN SPIRIT.

WHAT? SCARY!

BUT WHEN I MENTIONED IT LATER HE HAD NO IDEA

I THOUGHT THE MAN WAS MY DAD...

OK

THIS WAS THE SAME APARTMENT. IF I WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, I WOULD ALWAYS SEE A BLACK CLOUD COME IN THE WINDOW.

2 THE BLACK CLOUD AND THE DOLLS

CLNK

JUST BEFORE IT GRABBED ME, MY DOLLS WOULD ALWAYS...

IT WOULD CIRCLE AROUND, COMING CLOSER...

I'D ALWAYS BEEN TOO SCARED TO MOVE.

SO, YEAH...

SO STRONG!

CRAAACK

BAM

ORA

EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY SAYS THIS, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.

YOU WERE TOO SMALL TO UNDERSTAND.

BIG SIS

OH, THAT OLD APARTMENT WAS TOTALLY HAUNTED.

SO CRAZY I'D ASSUME IT WAS A DREAM, OR A DELUSION, BUT...

# 荒川アンダーザブリッジ

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE

English Digital Edition
Chapter 136

Arakawa Under the Bridge
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Hikaru Nakamura

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ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE
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WHALES JUMP

AS HIGH AS THEY CAN

CHAPTER X-5: FLIGHT

...THE SKY NOT THEIR GOAL?

OR IS...

LOOK TOWARDS THE SKY WITH LONGING?

DO THEIR EYES

THEY CREST THE WATER'S SURFACE

HIGHER AND HIGHER

IF THEY KNEW ABOUT THE BOUNDLESS REACHES OF SPACE

MAYBE HIGHER STILL

COULD ANY LIVING THING...

STAY ON THE GROUND?

WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHY?

DO THEY WISH TO GO EVEN HIGHER?

THEIR HEARTS BEATING...

NERVOUS, RECKLESS.

# ARAKAWA UNDER

# THE BRIDGE

# 荒川アンダーザブリッジ

ARAKAWA UNDER THE BRIDGE

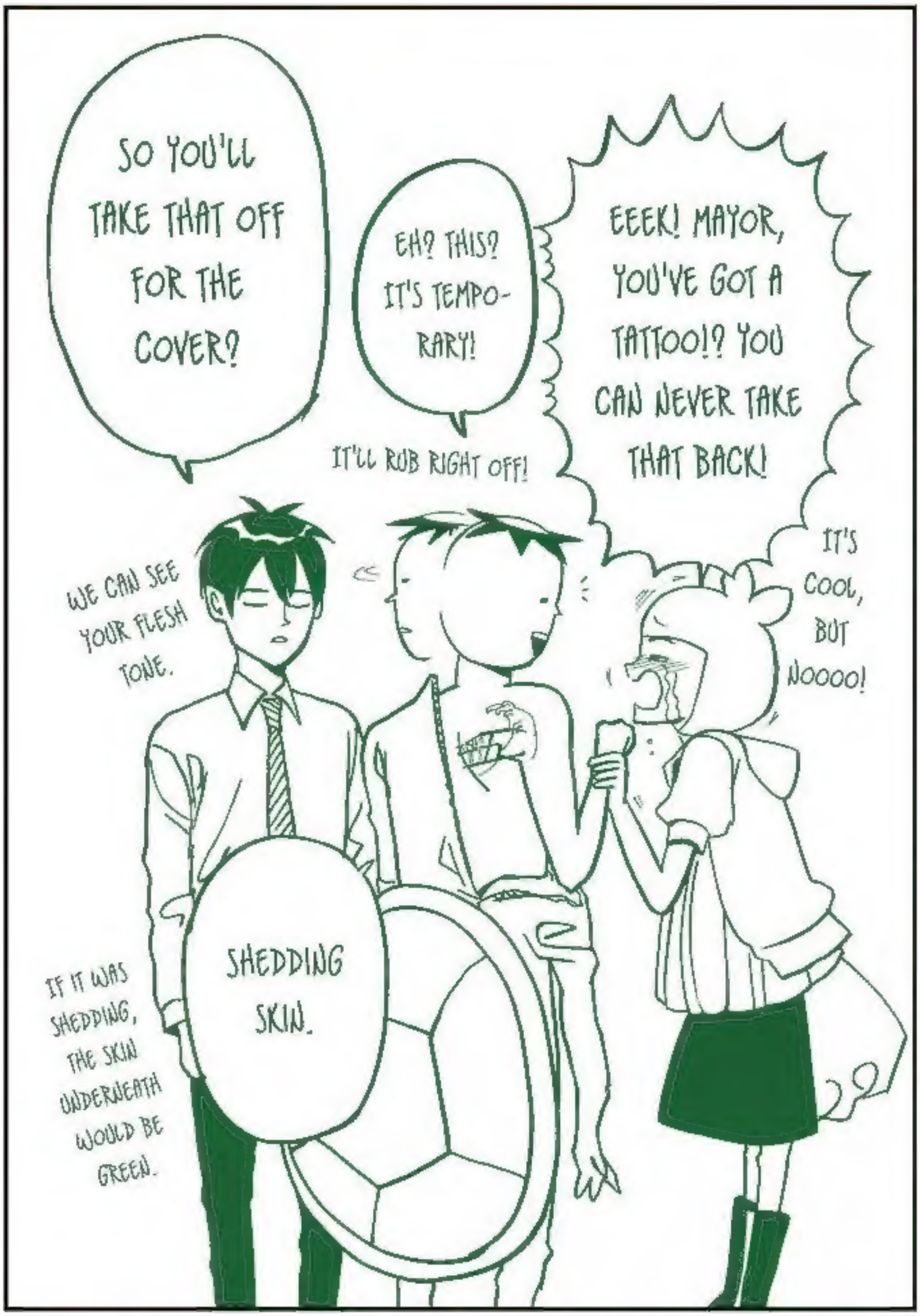
## COVER FLAP AUTHOR COMMENT

POLAROID CAMERAS ARE FUN, SO I OFTEN USE THEM. THERE'S A FILM TYPE CALLED SX-70 THAT HAS COLORS THAT TURN ALL SEPIA TONED AS SOON AS YOU TAKE THEM. IT'S A STRANGE FEELING, LIKE EVENTS THAT HAPPENED MOMENTS AGO SUDDENLY BECOMING DISTANT MEMORIES. THIS PICTURE IS MY FAMILY'S DOG, RYUTARO-KUN. HE LOVED BEING PETTED, BUT IF I QUIT HE WOULD START TUGGING AT ME LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO TRAIN ME. THAT WAS WEIRD.

HIKARU NAKAMURA.

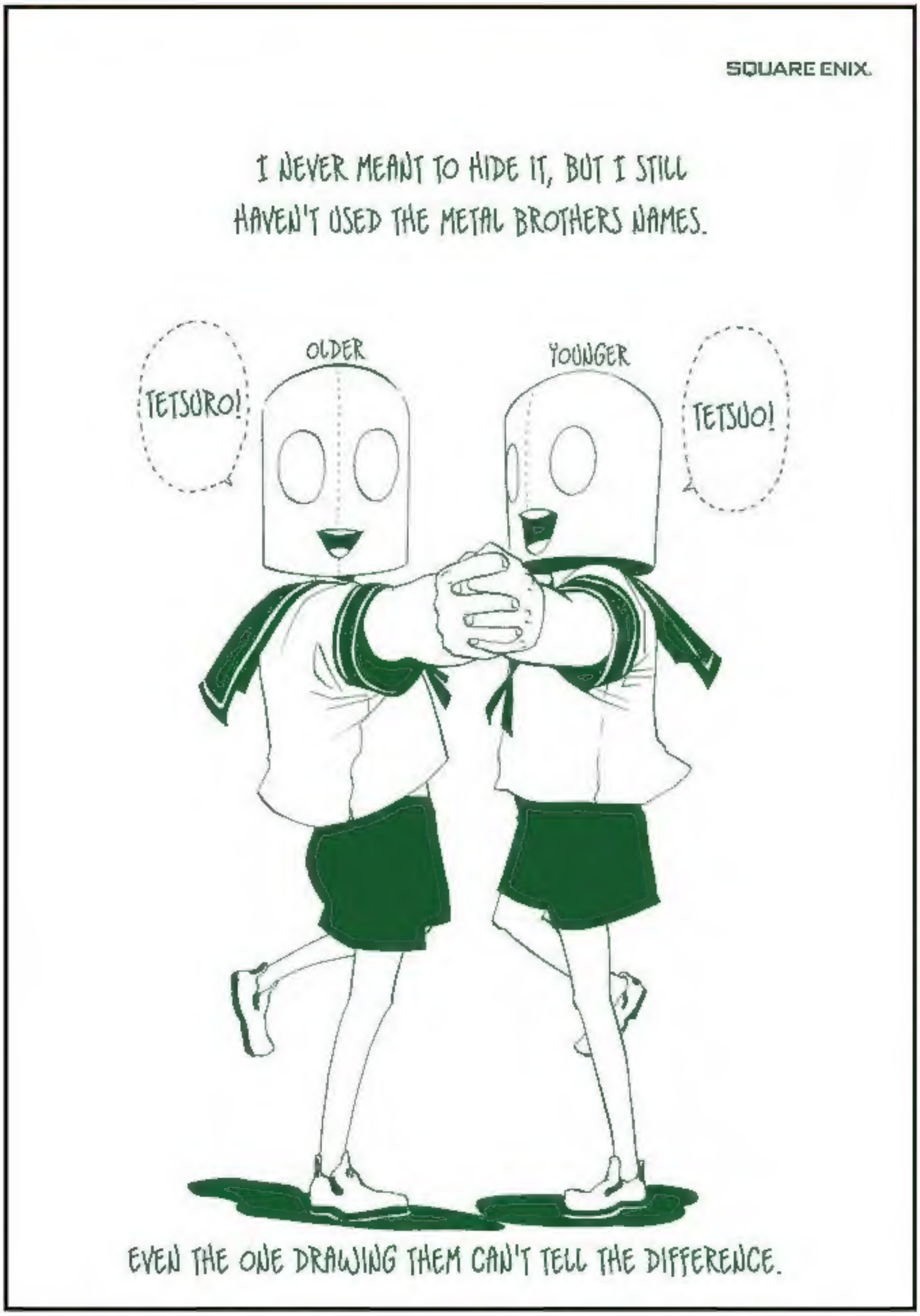
*Collecting the cover flap author's note from the printed edition.

## COVER ILLUSTRATION 1


SO YOU'LL TAKE THAT OFF FOR THE COVER?
EH? THIS? IT'S TEMPORARY!
IT'LL RUB RIGHT OFF!
EEEK! MAYOR, YOU'VE GOT A TATTOO!? YOU CAN NEVER TAKE THAT BACK!
WE CAN SEE YOUR FLESH TONE.
IT'S COOL, BUT NOOOO!
IF IT WAS SHEDDING, THE SKIN UNDERNEATH WOULD BE GREEN.
SHEDDING SKIN.

***Collecting the cover flap author's note from the printed edition.**

## COVER ILLUSTRATION 2


SQUARE ENIX.
I NEVER MEANT TO HIDE IT, BUT I STILL HAVEN'T USED THE METAL BROTHERS NAMES.
TETSURO!
OLDER
YOUNGER
TETSUO!
EVEN THE ONE DRAWING THEM CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

***Collecting the cover flap author's note from the printed edition.**

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Chapter X-5

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